26th September 1956]

Kerala Plywood Company, Kozhikode

* 235 *Q.*—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Additional Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, Madras, has given an award in 1954 directing the management of Kerala Plywood Company, Limited, Kallai, Kozhikode, Malabar, to pay Rs. 8,861-11-5 to 41 workers in the said company;

(*b*) if so, whether the management have paid the amount to the workers; and

(*c*) if not the action taken by the Government in the matter?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) The Additional Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation awarded a sum of Rs. 7,717-14-9 as against Rs. 8,861-11-5 claimed by the workers.

(*b*) No, Sir.

(*c*) The District Magistrate, Kozhikode, was asked to recover the amount under Section 15 (5) of the Payment of Wages Act. It was not however possible to recover the amount as the Company was not working and as the movable property of the Company had already been attached and sold under Revenue Recovery Act for the realization of income-tax arrears.

Sri K. P. GOPALAN : May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Collector of Malabar has made detailed enquiries about the assets of the company and reported to Government that at least a portion of the award could be implemented so that the workers could be benefited? Would the Government also see whether the workers are enabled to get some benefit out of this? In this connexion may I also bring to the notice of the Government that the Collector of Malabar, now-a-days when the question of implementation of an award comes up before him, in many cases used to report to Government that the company was not in a position to pay the amount mentioned in the award. If there be such cases, will the Government be pleased to take steps to make detailed enquiries about the assets of the company and see that the workers get their due share according to the terms of the award?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The hon. Member may put a separate question.

Hospitals and Dispensaries without doctors

* 236 *Q.*—Sri N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the number of hospitals and dispensaries that are without doctors during the year 1956?